

to try to get reelected. In fact they called it Mediscare. What we are seeing are a group of people who were so afraid to save the system that the President's own Medicare advisers said was going bankrupt that they will resort to anything to get reelected.

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It was the President's task force that said we must save Medicare. So we did something radical. We said we would allow Medicare to grow at 7.2 percent. The President said, let us let it grow at 7.4 percent, and we were told we wanted to destroy the system.

Well, I agree with the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT]. Mr. Speaker, if saving Medicare is being mean to senior citizens, beam me up, because I do not understand this place anymore.

#### WHERE IS REPUBLICAN BUDGET?

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, what the gentleman who preceded me in the well did not say was that his party does not have a budget that explains how we make these cuts, whether they be Medicare cuts or tax cuts. Indeed, this Congress just returned from what I thought was the Easter break, but hearing the Speaker's comments yesterday promising massive tax cuts made it sound more like a political Christmas.

It was only 2 years ago that Members of the Republican Party paraded into this well to say, where is the White House budget? Well, what a difference 2 years makes. Now the conservative Democrats have presented the so-called blue dog budget, the White House has presented its balanced budget. What has the reaction been? The Republican Congressional Budget Office says it is not balanced enough, but they presented no budget of their own.

Then they say the Medicare cuts are not deep enough. They presented no budget of their own. Yesterday the Speaker promised eliminating all capital gains. That is about \$40 billion a year, the mass of the benefits going to the wealthiest individuals in the country, and yet no budget has been presented.

So here is my challenge to the other party. When you demand cuts, put a budget on the table before you come to the table.

#### HATCH AND KENNEDY ARE RIGHT

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do what is right for the children of America.

Senators HATCH and KENNEDY have developed bold new legislation in the other body designed to protect the

physical health of our children, and we in the House should also support this legislation. It has bipartisan support and deserves our support.

There are three major components to it: A block grant to allow the States to provide the health insurance coverage, which is paid for by a tax or a user fee on cigarettes that not only will pay for the program but also discourage youth from smoking in the first place. One-third of the revenues, and I say specifically to my Republican colleagues like myself who are fiscally conservative, one-third of those revenues will be used to reduce the budget deficit and stop mortgaging children's futures.

The health of our children is far too valuable to allow it to be threatened by a lack of adequate health insurance. There is no area where health insurance and preventive care brings more rewards. It is cost-effective as well as being humane, and it deserves the support, bipartisan support, such as Senators HATCH and KENNEDY have already developed.

#### MORE TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, when I woke up to today's papers, I read the latest idea of the Republican leadership's do-nothing Congress, which is to go ahead and give 1,400 of the wealthiest families in this country a \$4.6 billion giveaway by eliminating all estate taxes, and that is what it amounts to, over \$4 billion to only 1,400 families in this country.

This is not relief, which we want to see in estate taxes, this is a giveaway, at the same time that my colleagues say that Medicare cuts are not big enough on millions of senior citizens in this country, and with 10 million children in this country who have no health care opportunity whatsoever.

Now, to think that this is, in essence, what my Republican colleagues are headed toward in their budget describes why they do not have a budget, because there is no way to plug up those holes. Deal with the deficit, balance the budget, and take care of the needs of this Nation. Who are you for, and who are you against?

Mr. Speaker, with this policy, what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are telling us is, they are against our seniors, against our children, and for the wealthiest people in this country who do not need that type of assistance. That is simply wrong.

#### AMERICANS SHOULD FIGHT FOR TAX RELIEF

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, in 1980 the Federal revenue was about \$500 billion.

We then had the Reagan tax cuts, and by 1990 the Federal revenue was over \$1 trillion. It doubled in a decade. Mr. Speaker, if we could double our Federal revenue in the next decade, we would go from an income or revenue of \$1.5 trillion to \$3 trillion. We could balance the Federal budget with \$3 trillion income.

However, the opponents to tax relief say you cannot cut estate taxes, which we all know as death taxes. We are taxed all of our lives, and then now we have a tax when people die. We cannot eliminate death taxes, because that is only 1,400 people. We cannot cut capital gains taxes, because that is only the wealthy. We cannot even give tax relief to families, \$500 per child, because there is no revenue generated from that.

Well, this country can get tax relief. We are taxed too high, and we can do it and still see an increase in the Federal revenue. Do not believe all the demagoguery. Fight for tax relief. I urge my colleagues to vote for tax relief as soon as we can get it to the floor.

#### TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH, MEDICARE CUTS FOR SENIORS

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we have been here before. Last year Speaker GINGRICH attempted to give tax breaks to the richest citizens of this country and pay for them by cutting Medicare at \$250 billion. The American people stopped that.

This year, as April 15 approaches and Americans are rushing to pay their taxes, Speaker GINGRICH, who himself still owes the Federal Government \$300,000 in fines, Speaker GINGRICH is back. He wants more tax breaks for the wealthiest people and more cuts for Medicare.

Yesterday Speaker GINGRICH, appealing to his wealthiest contributors in the Republican Party, advocated a huge tax break for the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans. At the same time, the Republican chairman of the Committee on the Budget yesterday said he wants more Medicare cuts.

The Gingrich team is doing it again: Tax cuts for the richest 1 percent, Medicare cuts for 37 million senior citizens. That is wrong.

#### AMERICANS ARE OVERTAXED

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker spoke about what is wrong. What is wrong is to lie to the American people and say something is a cut when it is not a cut. The Republican Medicare proposal last year increased Medicare funding \$190 billion to \$270 billion. That is not a cut.

Now, if my colleagues on the other side say it is a cut, either they have a